

10/537299

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 JUN 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

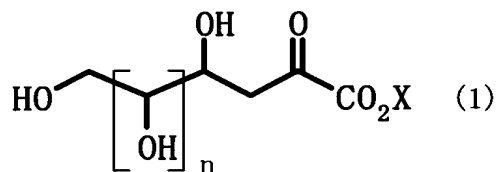
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for preparing a compound represented by the general formula (4) comprising the following two steps;

a step of the reduction from a compound represented by the general formula (1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula (3), and

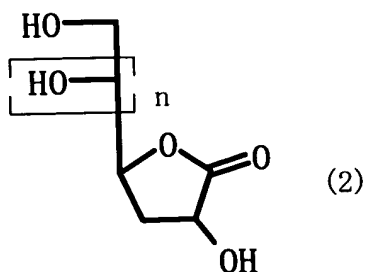
a step of the decarboxylation from a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula (3) to a compound represented by the general formula (4),

[General Formula 1]



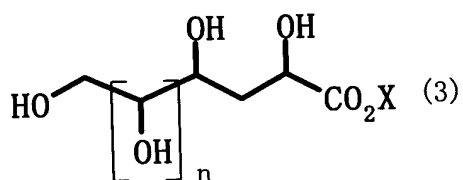
wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal; and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]



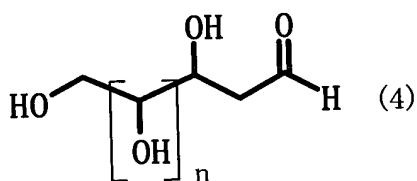
wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]



wherein X and n are the same as the above,

[General Formula 4]



wherein n is the same as the above.

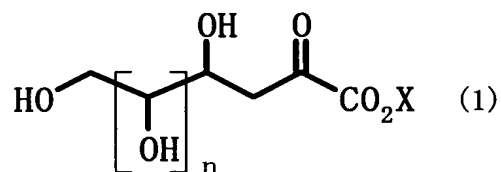
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reduction step is carried out by the catalytic hydrogenation.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reduction step is carried out using a hydride reducing agent.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to claim~~ 3, wherein both of the reduction step and the decarboxylation step are carried out in a water solvent.

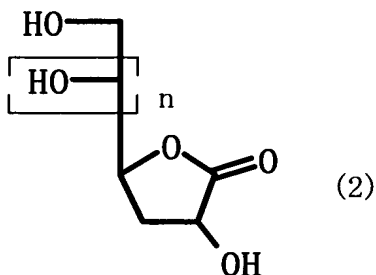
5. (Original) A method of reducing a compound represented by the general formula (1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula (3) by the catalytic hydrogenation,

[General Formula 1]



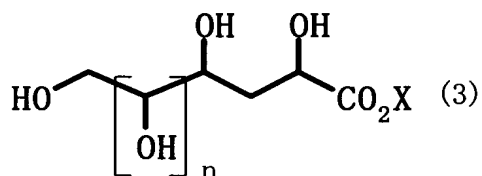
wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal; and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]



wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]



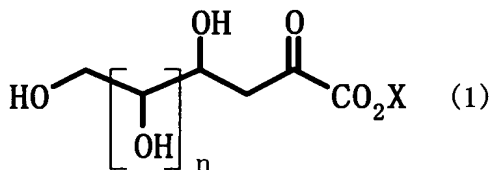
wherein X and n are the same as the above.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the catalytic hydrogenation is carried out under acidic conditions.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein palladium loaded on an activated carbon is used for the catalytic hydrogenation.

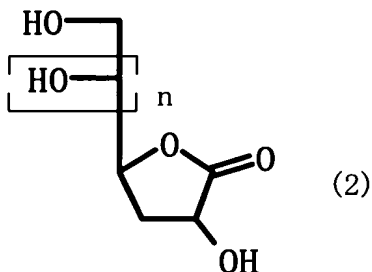
8. (Original) A method of reducing a compound represented by the general formula (1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or (3) using a hydride reducing agent in a solvent of not more than 30 weight times the amount of a compound represented by the general formula (1),

[General Formula 1]



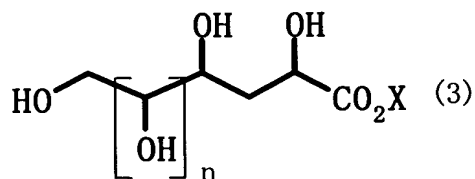
wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal; and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]



wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]



wherein X and n are the same as the above.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein a reducing agent is fed in a divided manner or fed by dropping and the reaction is carried out at not more than 30°C.
10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[8 or]] 9, wherein sodium borohydride is used as a reducing agent.
11. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 5 to~~ claim 10, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.
12. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein both of the reduction step and the decarboxylation step are carried out in a water solvent.
13. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein both of the reduction step and the decarboxylation step are carried out in a water solvent.

14. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein sodium borohydride is used as a reducing agent.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.

16. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.

17. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.

18. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.

19. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.

20. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.